

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 165584

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: PFOR, US

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: STATE 156282

CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS JUNE 24, 25, 28, AND 30, CONTAIN
FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS REGARDING U.S. RADIO FACI-
LITIES IN SPAIN.

JUNE 24: MR. FASCELL: "MR. SPEAKER, THE SENATE HAS NOW
RATIFIED THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH
SPAIN, A TREATY WHICH INVOLVES NUMEROUS COMMITMENTS-INCLUD-
ING FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS-OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS. WE HOPE
THIS TREATY WILL LEAD TO A BROADENING OF THE COOPERATION
BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, EVEN AS SPAIN HERSELF
EVOLVES INTO A MORE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

"MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THE OBLIGATIONS
SET FORTH IN THE TREATY DO NOT IN ANY WAY SUPERSEDE THE
NORMAL CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION PRO-
CESSES, AND WILL BE REVIEWED EACH YEAR IN THE CONTEXT OF
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THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET RESOLUTION.

"I SHOULD LIKE TO NOTE HERE THAT THESE ANNUAL AUTHORIZATIONS
WILL HAVE TO BE VIEWED IN THE TOTAL CONTEXT OF UNITED STATES-

SPANISH RELATIONS. THIS CONTEXT, INSOFAR AS I AM CONCERNED, DEFINITELY INCLUDES THE STATUS OF THE RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMISSION FACILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN LEASED FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT SINCE 1957. THE LEASE EXPIRED IN APRIL, AND THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING IS SEEKING A LONG-TERM RENEWAL; THE SITE IS IDEAL FROM THE TECHNICAL VIEWPOINT, AND RELOCATION TO A TECHNICALLY INFERIOR SITE WOULD COST UPWARDS OF \$20 MILLION.

"IN OUR REPORT ON THE BIB AUTHORIZATION, THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HAS STATED OUR HOPE THAT -

"SPAIN WILL CONTINUE TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE USE OF THE RL FACILITIES AS PART OF A COMMON EFFORT OF THE WEST TO INSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUE TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION DENIED THEM BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.

"THE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION IN NO WAY DIMINISHES - ON THE CONTRARY, IT INTENSIFIES - OUR INTEREST IN SEEING A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LONG-TERM AGREEMENT CONCLUDED FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMITTER LEASE.

"I UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH A RENEWAL WILL BE RESUMED IN MADRID AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, AND I AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY SUPPORTS THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING IN ITS EFFORTS TO SECURE A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT. IT IS MY HOPE THAT SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLEMENT THE NEW TREATY WITH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE USE OF THIS FACILITY BY RADIO LIBERTY.

JUNE 24 SEN. PERCY: "MR. PRESIDENT, I WISH TO JOIN THOSE OF MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WHO HAVE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF A LONG-TERM RENEWAL OF THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE ON TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN SPAIN. I RAISED THIS QUESTION UNCLASSIFIED

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DURING THE RATIFICATION HEARINGS BEFORE OUR COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND THE COMMITTEE'S UNANIMOUS REPORT EMPHASIZES THAT THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF THESE RADIO LIBERTY FACILITIES IS A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE BROADENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A RENEWAL OF THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE WILL BE RESUMED IN MADRID AT THE END OF THIS MONTH, AND I AM GLAD TO LEARN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FULLY SUPPORTS THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING-BIB-IN ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A LONG-TERM RENEWAL. I BELIEVE THAT THE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT HELP BUT INFLUENCE THE BROADER PATTERN OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SPANISH GOVERN-

MENT. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATION WILL BE SPEEDILY AND SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED WITH A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT."

JUNE 25:SEN. CASE: "MR PRESIDENT, I AM JOINING OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHO HAVE VOICED CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE RADIO LIBERTY TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY BUILT WITH U.S. GOVERNMENT FUNDS, THESE FACILITIES ARE OWNED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT. SINCE 1957, THE TRANSMITTERS HAVE BEEN OPERATED BY RADIO LIBERTY UNDER A LEASE ARRANGEMENT. THE LEASE EXPIRED IN APRIL, AND I UNDERSTAND THAT LATER THIS MONTH NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME IN MADRID ON A RENEWAL OF THE LEASE.

"THESE FACILITIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO RADIO LIBERTY'S BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND 15 OTHER LANGUAGES OF THE U.S.S.R. THE FIVE 250-KILOWATT AND ONE 100-KILOWATT TRANSMITTERS IN SPAIN FURNISH FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE POWER FOR THESE IMPORTANT BROADCASTS, WHICH SERVE THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI DECLARATION. THESE BROADCASTS BRING TO SOVIET LISTENERS THE WORKS AND VOICE OF ALEXANDER SOLZHENITSYN, ANDREI SAKHAROV, VIKTOR NEKRASSOV, ANDREI SINYAVSKY, AND MANY OTHER INDEPENDENT-MINDED RUSSIANS DENIED OFFICIAL PUBLICATION BY CENSORSHIP. RADIO LIBERTY, ALONG WITH RADIO FREE EUROPE, HAS SINCE 1974 BEEN UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENTIALLY-APPOINTED BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, WHICH ASSURES THAT THE BROADCASTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH BROAD U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES.
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"NOT ONLY IS THE TRANSMITTER SITE IN SPAIN PROPAGATIONALLY IDEAL FOR SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTING TO THE U.S.S.R.; VERY FEW OTHER COUNTRIES ARE BOTH TECHNICALLY AND POLITICALLY FEASIBLE. IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT RELOCATION-TO AN INFERIOR SITE-WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 3 YEARS AND COST UPWARD OF \$20 MILLION.

"AT OUR COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON THE SPANISH TREATY, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STATED THAT THEY HAD CONVEYED TO SPANISH AUTHORITIES THE AMERICAN VIEW THAT THE CONTINUED AVAILABILITY OF RADIO LIBERTY FACILITIES IS A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THE BROADENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

"IN OUR REPORT, THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REAFFIRMED THIS VIEW WITH EMPHASIS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, IN ITS REPORT ON THE BIB AUTHORIZATION, SIMILARLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT:

'SPAIN WILL CONTINUE TO ENABLE THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE USE OF THE RL FACILITIES AS PART OF A COMMON EFFORT OF THE WEST TO INSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUE TO

HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION DENIED THEM BY THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT.'

"I THINK IT FAIR TO OBSERVE THAT THE VOTES IN BOTH HOUSES ON AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE BOARD, SINCE ITS CREATION, HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE BROAD NONPARTISAN SUPPORT FOR THIS IMPORTANT BROADCASTING EFFORT. SURELY THE PRESENT LEADERS OF SPAIN, AS THEY MOVE TOWARD A MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO ALL EUROPE OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IDEAS-THE NECESSITY OF 'CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOG WITH THE PEOPLES OF THE U.S.S.R.' WHICH RADIO LIBERTY IS COMMITTED TO PURSUE UNDER THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ACT OF 1973. IT IS AN EFFORT RECOGNIZED AS IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO THE UNITED STATES BUT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, WHICH SPAIN WILL PERHAPS JOIN SOME DAY. THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, REPRESENTING THE PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE ALLIANCE, HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSED ITS FIRM SUPPORT OF RFE/RL BROADCASTS."

JUNE 28: MR. ZABLOCKI: "MR. SPEAKER, LAST WEEK ATTENTION WAS CALLED BY MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES TO THE STILL UNRESOLVED QUESTION OF RAEIO LIBERTY'S LEASE ARRANGEMENT IN PALS, SPAIN. AS MEMBERS HAVE POINTED OUT, THE ORIGINAL LEASE FOR RL'S TRANSMISSION FACILITIES EXPIRED LAST APRIL AND HAS NOT BEEN RENEWED AS OF THIS DATE, DESPITE SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH SPAIN.

"I THINK IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT UNTIL NOW, THIS MATTER HAS NOT RECEIVED THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES FROM OUR OWN STATE DEPARTMENT NEGOTIATORS, WHO HAVE BEEN LARGELY PREOCCUPIED WITH MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS. NOW IS THE TIME TO RESTATE AND REEMPHASIZE THE CONCERN OF THIS BODY OVER THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE LEASE RENEWAL ISSUE.

"MR. SPEAKER, THE FISCAL YEAR 1977 AUTHORIZATION FOR THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, WHICH IS INCLUDED IN THE BILL S. 3168, PROVIDES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF PROJECTED NEEDS FOR U.S. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING OPERATIONS BASED ON ANTICIPATED LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS AND ANTICIPATED COOPERATION AMONG VARIOUS AGENCIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, U.S. GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS, AND FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING. THE CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 3168, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR FLOOR CONSIDERATION ON WEDNESDAY OF THIS WEEK, REQUIRES THE PRESIDENT TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT BY JANUARY 31, 1977. CLEARLY, THE STATUS OF THE RL TRANSMITTER SITE AND FACILITIES AT

PALS WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR TO BE CONSIDERED IN ANY
SUBSEQUENT RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE SUBMITTED IN THIS

REGARD AND CONSEQUENTLY AN EARLY DECISION ON THE MATTER
IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

"MR. SPEAKER, THE RECORD OF THIS HOUSE IN SUPPORT OF RADIO
FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY IS BOTH CONSISTENT AND
CLEAR: THE ANNUAL AUTHORIZATION BILLS FOR THE BOARD FOR
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INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, WHICH FUNDS THESE TWO RADIOS,
HAVE BEEN APPROVED IN RECENT YEARS BY SUBSTANTIAL
MAJORITIES-BOTH IN OUR COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AND ON THE HOUSE FLOOR. FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, THE
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES AT PALS CURRENTLY PLAY A VITAL
ROLE IN RADIO LIBERTY'S BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION
AND RELOCATION COSTS ARE ESTIMATED AT UPWARD OF \$20
MILLION.

"LET ME JUST ADD THAT THE OUTCOME OF THIS ISSUE AFFECTS
NOT ONLY OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
SPAIN, BUT OUR GLOBAL POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION
AND THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE. AS SUCH, IT IS A
MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND
SHOULD BE VIEWED ACCORDINGLY."

JUNE 30: MR. SLACK: "...MR. SPEAKER, THE BILL AS AGREED
TO BY THE CONFEREES INCLUDES AN APPROPRIATION OF
\$53,385,000 FOR THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING,
WHICH SUPERVISES RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE.
BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE RECOGNIZE THAT THE BOARD HAS
MADE SU0STANTIAL EFFORTS DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS TO EFFECT
COST SAVINGS AND ACHIEVE BUDGETARY STABILITY.

"HOWEVER, FUTURE STABILITY MAY LARGELY DEPEND ON
NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING VERY SOON IN MADRID CONCERNING
THE RENEWAL OF THE RADIO LIBERTY LEASE ON TRANSMITTER
FACILITIES IN SPAIN. THESE TRANSMITTERS HAVE, SINCE
1959, FURNISHED FOUR-FIFTHS OF THE POWER FOR THESE
IMPORTANT BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE BOARD
ESTIMATES THAT REPLACEMENT OF THESE FACILITIES AT AN
ALTERNATE SITE WOULD COST MORE THAN \$20 MILLION. I
AM PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THE ADMINISTRATION FIRMLY
SUPPORTS THE BOARD'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A LONG-TERM
RENEWAL OF THE SPANISH LEASE, WHICH IS CLEARLY IN THE
NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES." KISSINGER

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